

TESTIMONY OF SALVATORE F. MENZO, EdD.

Submitted to the Education and Appropriations Committees

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

HB 6662 - An Act Implementing The Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning Education

Chairmen McCrory and Currey, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is Salvatore Menzo, and I am the superintendent of the Goodwin University Magnet School System. I am here to speak in support of House Bill 6662, An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning Education.

Goodwin University Magnet Schools were established in 2009 in response to the Sheff versus O'Neill lawsuit. Presently our system consists of two schools serving nearly 1100 students in grades prek-12. Based on the most recent settlement reached in the Sheff versus O'Neill case last January 2022, we are in the process of opening two more schools for the fall of 2025.

In October of 2020, CT Public Act 2020-08 was enacted by the CT legislature and recognized the Goodwin University Magnet School System as a Local Educational Agency (LEA). As a result, the district is responsible for all legal reporting requirements under State and Federal Law. The district receives state and federal funding for its programming and services to students and families. As non-profit public schools, all funding for our schools comes from federal, state, and local sources.

Sections 12-13 of the proposed HB 6662 are significant in that they provide teachers employed by the Goodwin University Magnet Schools and Goodwin University Education Services continued participation in the Teachers' Retirement System. Currently, we contract with LEARN, a regional education service center, to enable our teachers the ability to participate in

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the Teachers' Retirement System. After the expiration of this contract, the teachers will be directly employed by the Goodwin University Magnet Schools, Inc. and/or Goodwin University Educational Services, Inc. HB 6662 ensures that these teachers remain eligible for Teachers' Retirement during and after this transition.

Lastly, I am respectfully requesting a minor edit to the bill that does not constitute a substantive change in language. In Section 13, at lines 433 and 437-438, the bill has the name Goodwin University Education Services, Inc. The full and correct legal name of this entity is actually **Goodwin University Educational Services, Inc. Accordingly, the word "Education" on lines 433 and 438 of the bill should be changed to "Educational" so that this entity is correctly identified as Goodwin University Educational Services, Inc.**

Thank you.

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